

OUT OF CHAOS

THE EYE OF THE STORM THROUGH THE EYES OF ITS SURVIVORS

Upon returning to Ball High School in Galveston, Texas after Hurricane Ike made landfall, we, the self-titled "Hurricane Story Tellers," set out to capture the tale of the perseverance and resilience of our devastated island community. As the film evolved, we turned the cameras on ourselves to show how a diverse group of young filmmakers - both collectively and as individuals - has grown through the process of making this film.

We have garnered local and national attention from press outlets including Good Morning America, NPR's Weekend Update, numerous appearances on The Weather Channel with Jim Cantore, the Austin Chronicle, Houston Chronicle, AM 740 KTRH Radio, and all major Houston-based television stations. We have received thousands of inquiries from individuals about the sale of the DVD as well as offers from national networks - including PBS and The Weather Channel - to purchase rights to the film for broadcast. However, we would be honored to attend your festival with hopes of pairing with the best match for a distributor for our film.

We are determined to reveal the celebration of our people and to give something back to the heroes who have worked tirelessly to rebuild our island.

We thank you for your consideration.

With Gratitude,

The Hurricane Story Tellers

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Synopsis



One month after the devastating forces of Hurricane Ike ripped through the neighborhoods of their small island, students of Mr. Robert Weiss's film class returned to Galveston's Ball High School expecting to get back to work on the black-and-white silent films they were crafting before the storm hit. They were surprised to discover a new assignment: a documentary about Hurricane Ike's effect on their community.

The film class banded together with other concerned and devoted students to form a collective union of filmmakers, poets, and musicians, calling themselves "The Hurricane Story Tellers".

They set out to interview people in the community. Along the way, the students found strength and understanding and finally peace, as they began to document their own stories.





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"This documentary has helped the community stay strong, stay connected. The students themselves have their own tales of survival to tell. It's just remarkable. They are a remarkable group of young people."

-Robin Roberts, *Good Morning America*

"Taking a look what these students have accomplished, I am admiring, very respectful, and appreciative of the level of work being done at a high school level. I hope people will take the time to watch."

-Dan Rather, Journalist/Former CBS Evening News Anchor, Interviewee, and Texas Native

"We underestimate the power of our youth. The efforts of these aspiring filmmakers, in the midst of great personal trauma, are a great testimony to how insight, compassion, and a genuine desire to learn can overtake a crippling calamity and turn it into a powerful message for all who have suffered from such tribulation."

-Jim Cantore, Meteorologist and on-air personality for The Weather Channel

"The Hurricane Story Tellers are making sure that the waves of the storm will not drown out the voices of their once vibrant community."

Education Update, Award Winning Educational Publication

"The documentary has changed the way [the students] look at the world."

-The Houston Chronicle

The Hurricane Story Tellers



AUSTIN ALMANZA is currently attending Galveston College for general studies with plans to transfer to a university for a degree in filmmaking. When he isn't busy in school, he can be found watching movies, listening to music, learning about politics, or hanging with his friends. Following Hurricane Ike, Austin's home was destroyed and he lost all but a handful of possessions. He felt a huge void in his life but has found a means of healing by being a part of this amazing group of people. Austin is beyond thankful for all he has learned through collaborating this film and wishes to thank his family, fellow HSTs and the Weisses for this opportunity.



MAMIE AOUGHSTEN is a 2010 Ball High graduate and a self-proclaimed nerd. A perfectionist at heart, Mamie is an author, poet and avid reader. Although tone deaf, Mamie loves to belt out random songs at the top of her lungs. She is currently studying at the University of Texas in Austin and plans to attend law school in the future. She would like to thank her fellow Story Tellers, Heather, Aaron, and Mr. Weiss for providing an experience unlike any other. She would also like to express her gratitude to her former English teachers, Mrs. Jackson and Ms. Maveety, for teaching her the art of writing and presentation.



MARIA BETANCOURT was born and raised on Galveston Island and is a lover of literature, cartoons, movies, art, and being a part of a vigorous community. While not as extroverted as some, she's been happy to help out and become a part of the Hurricane Story Tellers. This experience has given her the opportunity to give something back to her island. It is still difficult for her to accept the reality, but the documentary has helped her see the aftermath in the most positive and self-healing way possible. She thanks Mr. Weiss for being patient with her, Heather and Aaron Weiss for being figures of esteem, Jennifer Willcut for being a charitable friend, every last member of the HSTs, and her family for staying strong.



CHRISTIAN DIERLAM is a native Galvestonian. In his spare time, he enjoys playing video games, surfing the web, playing on the beach, fishing and playing with his two Quaker Parrots - Cisco and Poncho. Christian dreams of one day becoming a video game designer. He was eager to tackle the documentary assignment given by Mr. Weiss in his media tech class following the storm and was quick to pick up a camera to begin filming the aftermath of Hurricane Ike. He is very excited to see the film come to life on the big screen. Christian thanks his parents, Mr. Weiss, Aaron Weiss, and Heather Weiss for their support in creating this film.

The Hurricane Story Tellers



WILLIAM GOMEZ began traveling all over Texas after graduating from Ball High with the intention of gathering a greater knowledge of photography and videography and gaining insight on aspects including lighting, sound, music videos, acting, directing, and writing. His love of cinema and the arts continues to grow. He wishes everybody involved with the project be filled with love and kindness and hopes that this film represents the resiliency of the community in the face of such disaster. May they all be stronger individuals at heart after Ike.



TAYLOR GREENWALT is now playing soccer for Austin College while working toward a major in media studies. He has always been interested in filming and editing and working on this film has led him to pursue a career in media studies. When he isn't shooting footage or playing soccer, he is most likely enjoying a delicious bowl of ramen noodles, hanging out with his pals, or enjoying board games with his family. Taylor is grateful for his new HST friends and this experience for giving him the tools to achieve his future goals. He wishes to thank his family, friends, and fans of the documentary for their continuous support.



RAFAEL LAZO is currently attending Galveston College for general studies to pursue a University major in video digital broadcasting. The moment that Rafael became involved in filmmaking, he knew it would be a lifelong passion and hopes to one-day work for ESPN. When not going to school or working as a pool attendant, Rafael enjoys skim boarding, surfing, playing volleyball, basketball, baseball, and watching ESPN.



NATALIE MARTIN finished her two years in San Jacinto College's Department of Theatre and Film and now plans on pursuing a career in education. She has been extensively involved in her church throughout her life, where her love of music first blossomed and where her singing and performing career began at the age of eight. She also enjoys writing, public speaking, riding her bike, hanging out with friends, sunbathing, and meeting new people. As she has lived on the island for most of her life, having the opportunity to help bring Galveston's story to light with this documentary is an honor. She'd like to thank her fellow HSTs and her loud and supportive family and friends for being loud and supportive.

The Hurricane Story Tellers



MARGARET PATTERSON is a true maladroït who stumbled upon the project and never left. She loves the crazy antics of the entire film crew and feels right at home with the Hurricane Story Tellers. Margaret enjoys playing with animals, listening to all types of music, and being quirky. A master at karaoke, she torments her family by singing in the shower and spouting random animal facts. This opportunity to be involved with the documentary is tremendous and Margaret would like to sincerely thank her producers, The Weisses, and fellow HSTs for their never-ending support and friendship.



LAUREN RICE is a 6-foot tall Ball High graduate who enjoys working out to old Jane Fonda exercise tapes. She is planning to major in Bio-Psychology and Spanish at Tufts University. Upon hearing about the story of the Ike Documentary, she quickly joined the team and began taking an active hand in the post-production process. Through being a part of this project, she has found a sense of normalcy and harmony.



MELNIKIA SMITH is now living a new house with her family and her little sister, "Survivor" is two years old. Melnikia is a senior at Ball High and plans to pursue a degree in psychology upon graduation. Following her struggle through the hurricane and then residing in the shelter provided by The American Red Cross called "Tent City" with her parents and thirteen siblings, she was introduced to this project and her life was turned around. Through this documentary, she learned how the storm affected others in the community and is incredibly sympathetic to their struggles. She would like to thank her parents, friends, Mr. Weiss, Heather Weiss, Aaron Weiss, and the rest of the "Hurricane Story Tellers" who supported her through this very challenging time.



JOVANNA TORRES is a creative spirit who enjoys vintage-era music and movies, and art. She now attends Galveston College and is an aspiring art teacher and fashion designer. She is a local artist who spends much of her free time painting and drawing. Being a part of this documentary has been an empowering experience and has given Giovanna an outlet to express her innermost feelings towards her fellow islanders and their struggles with mother nature's tribulations. Thanks to Mr. Weiss, Aaron, Heather, fellow HSTs, friends, and family for their guidance and continued support. She hopes that everyone enjoys the film as much as she has enjoyed her role in it.

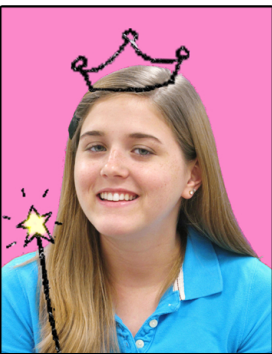
The Hurricane Story Tellers



KYLE TRAMONTE is a 2011 Ball High School graduate and a third generation Galvestonian. If you cannot find him battling a sedentary lifestyle on the couch or creeping on Facebook, he is probably "that guy" at the movie theatre sitting in the middle of the row, forcing people to sit next to him. Returning to his home after Ike was a very difficult task for Kyle, but after the storm he realized the power of his sandbar community, making everything worthwhile. Kyle is a proud Hurricane Story Teller and would like to thank everyone involved with the documentary for welcoming him as part of the family.



JENNIFER WILLCUT is eternally in love with her fellow HSTs and the Out of Chaos producers, and is grateful to them for helping her grow. Because of her experience through making this documentary, she's learned that the uncertainty of the future does not have to be frightening as long as she is writing and/or making movies and free to be as loud and sarcastic as she wants. The multitude of choices that await her after graduation are thrilling to her, specifically careers in screenwriting, documentaries and editing, and she recently discovered the joys of photography. So be nice to her, because she is a stealthy sneak-attacker with a camera, and she hopes you send her a Tweet at [Twitter.com/JenniferWillcut](https://twitter.com/JenniferWillcut).



HANNAH WILLEY has lived in Galveston her entire life and is a senior at Ball High School. She became completely enamored with the project from the moment she heard about what her fellow students had set out to accomplish and decided that she couldn't pass up the opportunity to get involved. Since she began helping out with the documentary she has now found a surprising interest and passion for filmmaking. When not working on the movie, Hannah can be found reading, hanging with friends, or playing with her tortoise, Rojo. She thinks all of the Hurricane Story Tellers have done an exceptional job and is looking forward to all of the exciting things in store for the documentary.

Producers



BOBBY WEISS (Executive Producer & Film Instructor) is a native Galvestonian who later attended Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Dallas before moving to Baltimore, where he received a degree in Printmaking and Book Arts from Maryland Institute College of Art. In college, Robert was highly involved in theater, painting, and drawing. Simultaneously, he formed a confederation of artists, performers, and musicians called "The Modern Plow Collective" who create paintings, drawings, films, and performance pieces on the stage and painting animations for the silver screen. Robert has taught at Ball High School for five years and has received numerous awards including the Teacher of the Year

Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the district. He is now currently enrolled at Syracuse University to receive an MFA in Painting.



HEATHER WEISS (Producer & Student Mentor) is a native Galvestonian and Ball High graduate who now resides in New York City, working as a Broadway stage manager and documentary film co-producer of One Story Productions -- with cousin and founder, Aaron Weiss. One Story is a documentary production company that creates promotional videos for charitable organizations. Endless thanks and love to brother Bobby, cousin Aaron, and each of the Hurricane Story Tellers for the unwavering dedication, late nights, and many laughs. Thanks to the Galveston Independent School District, supporters of the HSTs, and the many community volunteers and donors for believing in this project. Thanks to Galveston, her hometown,

for welcoming her back with open arms and for never ceasing to remain strong. Lots of adoration and admiration for the countless everyday heroes encountered on this journey who continue to rebuild.



AARON WEISS (Producer & Student Mentor) is a graduate of The New School University in New York City, with a Bachelor's in Media Studies. He is the founder and operator of NYC/Austin-based production company, One Story Productions, which is a full-service independent, production company that creates customized videos used for marketing, websites, social media and fundraising. His involvement with the Ball High "Hurricane Story Tellers" has been centered around teaching proper interviewing skills, camera operating techniques and post-production editing on "Out of Chaos." Aaron is currently based out of Austin, where he continues to produce films. He expresses his appreciation to his family for their never-ending encouragement and support.

He also wants to thank The Hurricane Story Tellers for teaching him more than he could ever have taught them.



Galveston Still Rebuilding as Hurricane Season Starts

'Ike' High School Students Tell Stories of the Storm

By BRANDY ZADROZNY, KAREN LEO, GITIKA AHUJA, QUIANA BURNS, JEN PEREIRA, JOSH GAYNOR

June 1, 2009 —

A group of Galveston high school students calling themselves the hurricane story tellers, is determined to rebuild the community's spirit by documenting its struggle. In the new documentary, "Ike," victims of the hurricane tell their stories to the young filmmakers.

In "Ike," one survivor, Miranda Smith, describes weathering the storm. Smith tells of the moment she was reunited with her father.

"I turned around and it was daddy and I thought he was dead. We just ran towards each other and sobbed. It was homecoming like I never thought before," Smith said.

Melnikia Smith, a student profiled in the documentary, talks about staying in tent city after the storm. Just three days after Ike hit, Melnikia's mother gave birth to a baby girl, naming her Jon-Bernet Survivor Richardson.

Another student who worked on and appeared in the film, Natalie Martin, rode out the storm in the local courthouse with her family. Prayer and song sustained her family through the night and Martin captured the experience on her camcorder.

Faith is a theme that appears throughout the film. It, like the documentary, has helped the community stay strong and connected. Nearly 1,500

residents came to see their story premier at Galveston's Grand Opera House on May 21.



Robert Weiss, the technology teacher who oversaw the project, explained the impact the documentary has had on his students and Galveston County. "The intention behind this piece has been nothing but good willed and natural and selfless," Weiss said. "And so, the realizations that these students are gonna bring from this will just continue to grow for years to come. And that's one thing, you know, I go to sleep feeling really good about is that they really have made a difference for this community."

For more information on the documentary, head to www.ikedocumentary.com.

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BE IN THE KNOW . . .

- HURRICANE IKE IS THE **THIRD** MOST DESTRUCTIVE HURRICANE TO EVER MAKE LANDFALL IN THE UNITED STATES.

- SENIOR, NATALIE MARTIN STAYED WITH HER FAMILY IN THE GALVESTON COUNTY COURT HOUSE DURING THE STORM AND CAPTURED ALL OF THE STORM FOOTAGE USED IN THE FILM.

- HURRICANE IKE WAS THE MOST INTENSE STORM IN THE **2008** ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON AND HAD THE HIGHEST INTEGRATED KINETIC ENERGY, THE MEASURE OF STORM SURGE DESTRUCTIVE POTENTIAL, OF ANY ATLANTIC STORM IN HISTORY.

- **234** SHELTERS WERE OPENED ACROSS THE STATE, PROVIDING REFUGE FOR **40,614** EVACUEES

- FOR TWO MONTHS FOLLOWING THE STORM, FRESHMAN MELNIKIA SMITH LIVED IN "TENT CITY", A SHELTER PROVIDED BY THE AMERICAN RED CROSS THAT WAS HOME TO AS MANY AS **800** DISPLACED RESIDENTS.

- ALL FOOTAGE IN THE DOCUMENTARY WAS SHOT BY STUDENTS AT GALVESTON'S BALL HIGH SCHOOL RANGING IN AGE FROM **14-18**. THEY CALL THEMSELVES "THE HURRICANE STORYTELLERS".

- HURRICANE IKE MADE LANDFALL AT **2:10AM** SEPT. 13, 2008, WITH THE EYE COMING ASHORE OVER GALVESTON ISLAND WITH SUSTAINED WINDS OF **110** MPH, GUSTS OF **125** MPH AND AN EYE THAT WAS

- JUNIOR, MAMIE AOUGHSTEN NARRATES THE FILM WITH PORTIONS OF HER ESSAY "TALES OF AN ISLAND", WHICH WAS WRITTEN FOR AN ASSIGNMENT IN HER ENGLISH CLASS

- **5** MONTHS INTO FILMING, MR. ROBERT WEISS, FILM INSTRUCTOR, CALLED IN HIS SISTER AND DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKER, HEATHER WEISS AND COUSIN AND DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKER AARON WEISS TO JOIN THE CLASS AS PRODUCERS AND STUDENT MENTORS ON THE PROJECT.

- THE **THREE** WEISS PRODUCERS REALIZED THE IMPACT THE FILM WAS HAVING ON THE LIVES OF THE STUDENT FILMMAKERS AND HOW CREATING THE DOCUMENTARY AND WAS BECOMING A MEANS OF CATHARSIS AND THUS HAD THE STUDENTS TURN THE CAMERAS THEMSELVES ON ONE ANOTHER.

- THE STUDENTS HAVE UNANIMOUSLY DECIDED THAT **ALL** PROFITS MADE FROM THE FILM WILL GO BACK TO THE GALVESTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION.



THE HURRICANE STORYTELLERS

*SOURCES—WIKIPEDIA.ORG, FEMA, NOAA AND THE GALVESTON COUNTY DAILY NEWS

Q & A with Film Instructor - Robert Weiss

How did the idea for the film evolve?

We returned to school October 17, 2008 – almost a month after being evacuated for Hurricane Ike. In my second period film class, we shared our personal stories from the storm in a sort of round robin session. I think we were all shocked to hear the stories that were being told and we realized that what had happened was going to change Galveston forever, impact us and our families' lives forever. We decided collectively to capture this struggle and document the recovery. We abandoned the black & white film project we had been working on before Ike hit and set out on foot in the neighborhoods around the school to begin capturing survivors' stories.

What role have the students played in the editing, shaping, interviewing and fund-raising aspects of the film production?



Mr. Weiss at the 2008–2009 Teacher of the Year Banquet just before he was awarded the "Lifetime Achievement Award" by the district.

The students are involved in every aspect of this creation from writing grants to submitting to film festivals to obtaining footage and late-night editing sessions. The directing is done collectively by the "Hurricane Story Tellers" in a very diplomatic matter. They do it all with great confidence coupled with guidance from my cousin Aaron and sister Heather, who serve as the Producers and Student Mentors. From the technical elements for things such as the best way to frame a shot to assembling press kits and post-production calls & emails, the students have a hand in it all. We have really pushed to make a breakthrough documentary experience.

What impact has the film had on the lives of the community members and of the students themselves?

The breadth and magnitude of the story of Galveston Island could never have been told without the dedication of all of the Hurricane Story Tellers. We find commonality in that everyone we have talked to sees this storm as a way for the community to unite. Some think of it as a new beginning. We hope that our story will serve as a model to other communities about resilience in the face of disaster and show people how the youth in America are telling life-changing stories.



Students interviewing Galveston Island Resident, Gail Meads

Q & A with Student Director - Jennifer Wilcut

What inspired you to undertake this project?

Coming back from a month of trauma and facing the stress of the unknown, I was hesitant to set out to make the documentary. When I heard Ball High School had reopened, I was just so relieved to have some escape from this stress. It was only a couple weeks into filming when I realized how much I really did want to make this film and how important it was to me. I found that it was not just a look into destruction. It was the story of Galveston's people finding hope and regaining their strength and willpower. People years from now will think about Hurricane Ike and they will have this film to hold on to. We are hoping it will be more than just a documentary. We hope it will become a part of Galveston's history.



William Gomez, Austin Almanza, Natalie Martin painting a sign for our appearance on The Today Show.

What has the process of making this film taught you?

The most important lesson I've gained from this experience is that perseverance and determination will



Jennifer Wilcut and Rafael Lazo interviewing Dan Rather.

take you very far. We Hurricane Story Tellers are a very diverse group of people and our documentary has helped each of us heal and grow us in countless ways. We've learned so much about the filmmaking process, our community, and ourselves through making this documentary and are now able to take these invaluable skills with us on our individual journeys. We have witnessed our community and our neighbors pick themselves up and reclaim their

island. These are lessons that will remain with us forever. My favorite part of the day is when people tell us how proud they are of us. We're making the film to do just that: make people proud, to give something in commemoration of our community. These moments are priceless.

Where are you now as a result of this experience?

Before this experience, I had only ever heard about people who made careers out of their passions but never thought that those two concepts would ever simultaneously exist for me. When I decided to take Mr. Weiss's film class, I never in my wildest dreams imagined that two years later I would be writing and directing my own projects while pursuing a degree in filmmaking at Stephen F. Austin State University. Being the lead interviewer for this documentary and learning how to tell a story was a very empowering experience that allowed me to take back the control in my life that had been destroyed by Hurricane Ike. I am certain now that I will continue to strive to give a visual voice to those whose stories should be heard by the world.

THE TALES OF AN ISLAND

Documentary Narration & Essay by Mamie Aoughsten

My winds grew strong, my waves rose to heights I had never before achieved, and my people left. I was alone in a storm of destruction, left to experience my deepest fears- my silent swears of terror unheard, and my untold tales ignored. An isolated soul abandoned in the dark hours of an awful eruption, I bunkered down. I would survive, if only so my people could return, and know that no thunder, no wind, and no horrific flood would take me from them. I was their home, and they my family. We would return.

It started slowly, the air growing in might, the clouds gathering as if today would be their last stand, as if today would be the day the Lord rained down on us our forty days of flood- our punishment for our sins- our day of judgment. Today was the day we would answer to Mother Nature, and it depended on me, my strength, my will to save this island, to save myself, so that when the sky cleared and the birds returned, my people could come home too. So that when the water receded and the debris settled, my people could come back to me, back to their lives built on my land, in my life, in my soul. So that when the roads were cleared and the buildings repaired we could move on, restart from our lives before the storm, before the destruction and the pain and the desolation and the exhaustion and the apathy towards breathing and feeling...and life. So that when the storm retreated- depressed in its failure at destroying us – we would have a place to return. I would protect my land and in turn it would protect my people.

When night breached my awareness, the rain was falling in sheets. Hard, rock-like sheets, determined to tear and rip at everything my people had made, to destroy the life we had made together. To end our existence, to kill my spirit, to ruin our future. The water rose steadily, but my wall of protection-built by my earlier inhabitants- stood firm, as did my belief in our ability to beat this storm and its malicious goal. It was not long before the houses were drowning, screaming in protest, calling for their owners. I listened, horrified at my inability to save everything, horrified at my failure in protecting everything my people held so close to their hearts. My businesses collapsed, roofs shattered in the face of such galling winds, and my plants-my trees- fell. They laid still. Cold, lonely on the slowly dying land beneath them. Scarce memories of their once tall and towering statues. My history washed into the unforgiving depths of the bluest and angriest waters I had ever met. My floating homes washed ashore, taking parts of land with them, obliterating my waters edge, tearing down my beaches, wearing down my resolve, and ending my floating season.

As the weeks passed and my people didn't return I grew depressed. Would they leave me? After all my struggle to save our home, would they desert me? I swore forgiveness when they did return. I saw their faces, grey and long, a physical representation of my inner emotion. They felt too. Our days would be long; our future would not fall because of this storm. It wouldn't destroy us. We would slowly trickle back to our former selves. The boats could be lifted, moved to their homes in my slowly soothing waters. The debris could be moved, lifted to heights not seen in my slowly calming air. The houses rebuilt, moved to the terrifying tall heights necessary for my people's safety. I was a tale, a tale of my land, of my people's island, a tale we would tell for years to come, for it would show our prosperity, it would show our fortitude, and it would show everything we could become. I took my people and made them come together; it took my people and forced them to regroup, to become better, and to defy Mother Nature.

We would grow silently, in the wake of this destruction, we would grow silently. My inhabitants, like myself, would face their fears; they would go against everything they thought was true and prove that a storm was no ending. Because when the sun rises, so do my people. Because when the sun rises, so does our future. Because when the sun rises, my tale is told.



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CREDITS (abbreviated)

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The Hurricane Story Tellers

executive producer & instructor
Robert Weiss

producers & student mentors
Heather J. Weiss
Aaron Weiss

in association with
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Galveston I.S.D.
Galveston I.S.D. Educational Foundation

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"Tales of An Island" essay and
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Mamie Aoughsten

lead interviewer
Jennifer Willcut

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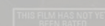
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COMING SOON



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MISSION

The mission of the Galveston ISD Educational Foundation is to promote quality education by establishing, supporting and enhancing programs not otherwise funded by the Galveston Independent School District.

THE GISD EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

- Is a 501 © 3 non-profit, tax exempt philanthropic organization independent of the GISD Schools but complementing it through partnership.
- Shares a vision of enhancing education in the GISD Schools.
- Works to increase private support for public education.
- Benefits GISD students and staff by supporting activities not funded by tax dollars.
- Encourages and recognizes creative approaches to education through grants and involvement.
- Awards Foundation funds through a volunteer Board of Directors made up of business and community leaders.

GOALS

- Promote and enhance the quality and excellence of Galveston public schools.
- Help students achieve their highest academic potential.
- Recognize and celebrate student academic success.
- Enhance teacher creativity and innovation by supporting unique growth opportunities, providing resources for creative teaching and recognizing teacher accomplishments.
- Promote community partnerships. Inspire individuals, corporations and community groups to participate with the Foundation in enriching education through philanthropy.